



WESTERN SYDNEY AIRPORT



Aboriginal heritage

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Western Sydney Airport considers the impacts of an airport on the Aboriginal heritage of the site and surrounding areas. The EIS also includes mitigation measures to manage any impacts and conserve the site's Aboriginal heritage values. These measures would be incorporated into the Aboriginal heritage management plan for the proposed airport.

Specialist Aboriginal heritage studies and site investigations have informed the assessment, in accordance with the EIS guidelines, relevant legislation and specialist literature.

A total of 74 Aboriginal heritage sites have been recorded at the Western Sydney Airport site. All of the Aboriginal heritage sites recorded at the airport site have significance. Construction of the Stage 1 development (one runway and up to 10 million passengers a year) would affect 39 of these sites. To preserve the heritage values, the EIS proposes:

- *in situ* conservation of some sites (including a grinding groove and a scarred tree, which are located within the environmental conservation zone at the airport site);
- recording and salvaging heritage artefacts; and
- commemorating cultural heritage values at the airport site.

A 'keeping place' may be established to store and preserve Aboriginal heritage items salvaged from the airport site. Other items will be conserved within the airport site's environmental conservation zone. Aboriginal stakeholders will be consulted about the proposed mitigation and management measures and will participate in their implementation.

Other mitigation and management measures to minimise the impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage would include:

- further archaeological investigations;
- curation and repatriation of heritage items; and
- protocols for the discovery of artefacts.

In identifying the Aboriginal heritage values of the airport site and developing measures to preserve them, the Australian Government has worked closely with the Aboriginal community, in accordance with the guidelines set out by *Ask First, A Guide to Respecting Indigenous Heritage Places and Values* (Australian Heritage Commission 2002). Aboriginal stakeholders will continue to be involved as mitigation measures are further refined and implemented during the construction phase, including through participating in field actions such as further investigations and salvaging.

